

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated September 12, 2005, has been received and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the assertions made in the Office Action is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. THE ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the present application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct inventions: claims 1-6 drawn to a method; and claims 7-18 drawn to a product.

The Applicant hereby respectfully traverses this election/restriction requirement, with amendment, and hereby requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this election/restriction requirement. As required, however, the Applicant provisionally elects claims 1-6 for prosecution in the event that this election/restriction requirement is made final.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 121, restriction is appropriate if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application. As set forth in MPEP § 802.01, inventions are independent if there is no disclosed relationship between the two or more subjects disclosed, and inventions are distinct if

two or more subjects as disclosed are capable of separate manufacture, use, or sale as claimed.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner attempts to explain how a method (i.e., claims 1-6) is distinct from a product (i.e., claims 7-18). However, the Examiner fails to explain how the method (i.e., claims 1-6) is independent from the product (i.e., claims 7-18). That is, both the method (i.e., claims 1-6) and the product (i.e., claims 7-18) are directed to reduced surface roughness on a conductive surface trace. Thus, the method (i.e., claims 1-6) and the product (i.e., claims 7-18) are related and are not independent from each other. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the election/restriction requirement is improper, and the withdrawal of such election/restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

## II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the

present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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